

February 20, 1963

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Dear Syd:

It was good to have your letter of February 15. I know the gratification that the opening of the new bug school will bring to you and our friends, particularly after so many years of waiting and working for it. I am sentimental enough to want to share in that with you. Since you first alluded to the possibility, I have been looking forward to the occasion and it would certainly be a point of great personal pleasure to renew the very friendly acquaintances that our visit in 1957 brought about.

But I am afraid that in a very few years I have just about completely lost my zest, even capacity, for extensive traveling, and I find that more and more, even the most delightful trips constitute an unconscionable drain on my time and energy to do the principal tasks to which I am committed. Perhaps just because it would be a matter of such great personal pleasure, I do not think I will be able to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy it.

Please believe me, all of this has nothing whatever to do with the question of your very understandable problem about trying to find financial support for what should be a very auspicious and singular occasion. I do think you should make every possible effort to obtain the necessary support from local sources, or at least those, for example, industries that have some special interest in Australian affairs. I think it very unlikely that the NSF would furnish more than partial, matching support for an affair so closely connected with your own institution. The outlook might possibly be more optimistic if it were sponsored by the Australian Microbiological Society or even more preferably by some international scientific organization. I honestly do not know what better, more practical advice to offer, except that whatever approach you make to any government or foundation source will certainly be strengthened by a showing of some degree of local participation.

I am sorry that my felicitations have to be coupled with some partial diffidence, but I hope you will understand that this originates quite outside my affection for the bug school, its members, and the country in which it is located.

RUBBO, S.